

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

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SUBJ: CONTINUED REACTION TO SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO ATHENS

REF: (A) ATHENS 0699 (NOTAL), (B) ATHENS 0726

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO ATHENS CONTINUES TO BE A
SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE OPPOSITION,
PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER PAPANDREOU IN PARTICULAR. THE
OPPOSITION PRESS IS STILL PUSHING THE LINE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE
SECRETARY'S STOPOVER WAS TO "PRESSURE" GREECE INTO CONCESSIONS ON
CYPRUS AND ON THE AEGEAN AND TO RETURN TO THE MILITARY WING OF NATO.
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MANY NEWSPAPERS HAVE CHARGED THAT CARAMANLIS' ACCEPTANCE OF A
SUMMIT MMEETING WITH ECEVIT (REF B) RESULTED FROM THE
SECRETARY'S "PRESSURE". THEY ALSO CHARGED THAT
CARAMANLIS' DEPARTURE TODAY FOR A WEEK-LONG SWING TO
FOUR EC CAPITALS IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE GOG'S
SUBMITTING TO WESTERN "PRESSURES".

2. RESPONDING TO THESE ALLEGATIONS, A GOG SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE STATEMENTS CARAMANLIS HAD MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY "...SHOW THAT MR.VANCE NEITHER SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS NOR CARRIED ANY PRO-POSAS FROM ANKARA. HE WAS SIMPLY BRIEFED BY MR. CARAMANLIS ON THE WELL-KNOWN PROBLEMS CONFRONTING OUR COUNTRY AND SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREEK POSITIONS." LIKEWISE, IN DEFENDING THE CARAMANLIS TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE, THE GOG SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THE TRIP WAS UNDERTAKEN AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE GREEK INTERESTS AND "NOT TO RECEIVE PRESSURES." FINALLY THE GOG SPOKESMAN CONDEMNED THE REPEATED TALK ABOUT "PRESSURES" AS HUMILIATING TO GREECE AND A PROVOCATION TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS VISITING GREECE.

3. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, THE LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION PASOK PARTY, HAS PERSISTED IN HIS ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOG. IN AN ADDRESS TO A PASOK GROUP YESTERDAY (JANUARY 24) PAPANDREOU AGAIN CITED SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CARAMANLIS-ECEVIT SUMMIT AS EVIDENCE OF GREECE'S GRAVE "SITUATION" WHICH HE UNDERLINED WAS A PRODUCT OF COORDINATED PRESSURES FROM THE U.S. AND THE OTHER ALLIES WHO ARE SEEKING CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS, GREECE'S "UNCONDITIONAL RETURN" TO THE MILITARY WING OF NATO AND A PERMANENT STATUS FOR U.S. BASES IN GREECE. EC ACCESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS BEING DANGLED AS BAIT FOR GREECE TO GIVE IN ON THESE ISSUES, BUT, HE ARGUED, EVEN IN THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC WOULD "COMPLETE GREECE'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN DECISION-MAKING CENTERS."

4. CITING WHAT HE LABELLED THE MISTAKE OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S RELIANCE ON THE U.S., PAPANDREOU SAID SECRETARY VANCE'S "MEDIATION" WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO ACCEPTING A PROCEDURE GEARED TO SERVE U.S. MILITARY AIMS. FURTHERMORE, THE SECRETARY'S "MEDIATION" WOULD LEAD GREECE TO AN "INEXTRICABLE DEADLOCK". PAPANDREOU ALSO RENEWED HIS FAMILIAR CHARGES THAT THE U.S. WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEVEN-YEAR DICTATORSHIP AND THE CYPRUS INVASION, AND ALSO ENCOURAGED TURKEY'S EXPANSIONIST PLANS. WITH REGARD TO A GREEK-TURKISH SUMMIT MEETING, PAPANDREOU WARNED THAT IT WOULD LEAD EITHER TO GREECE'S MAKING CONCESSIONS OR TO A "PROBABLE CONFLICT". A SUMMIT MEETING WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE, ACCORDING TO PAPANDREOU, IF IT MET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (A) THERE WAS NO U.S. OR NATO INVOLVEMENT, (B) TURKEY RECOGNIZED THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF THE AEGEAN AS DEFINED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS (I.E. THE TREATY

OF LAUSANNE, THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION, ETC.), (C) THERE WOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WHICH WAS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE AND NOT A GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE, AND ALSO BECAUSE GREECE COULD NOT NEGOTIATE FOR CYPRUS, AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. IN ADDITION PAPANDREOU REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION OF JOINT EXPLORATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE AEGEAN.

5. A GOG SPOKESMAN BRANDED PAPANDREOU'S LATEST REMARKS "FICTION" AND STATED THAT PAPANDREOU WAS NOT USING ARGUMENTS BUT SLOGANS. THE SPOKESMAN QUESTIONED THE PASOK LEADER'S TRUE MOTIVES IN ADOPTING SUCH AN ATTITUDE. MILLS

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